

Mrs. Jas. C. Byers, (M)3-36  
4230 Arguello St.

# California GARDEN

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SEPTEMBER

1935

*The Magazine . . .*

## "California Garden"

A Practical Local Guide published monthly  
for more than 20 years  
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The official organ of the San Diego Floral Association, in its 24th year of continuous activities. All interested in garden matters and civic beautification are invited to join. Dues \$1.50 per year. Magazine and Membership combined \$2.00 per year.

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# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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## NATIONAL ROSE SHOW AT EXPOSITION

Announcement is made elsewhere in this issue of a National Rose Show to be held at the California Pacific International Exposition at San Diego, October 12th and 13th. Flower shows entail a great deal more worry and work than the average individual realizes. Having some knowledge of the mass of detail necessary to successfully stage such an exhibition, we commend the promoters of this enterprise for their energy. But in spite of all the worry and the work of the promoters, such affairs can only be truly successful with the co-operation of the rose growers, amateur and professional. We urge that though it only be one good bloom that you have available that you take it to the Exposition grounds before 9:00 A. M., Saturday, October the 12th. Do your part in making California's and San Diego's National Rose Show a success.

## AUGUST GARDEN VISITS

The 1935 August meeting of the Floral association was in several ways the most interesting current occasion for 20 years. Subject of the meeting was "Exposition Plantings" by John Morley, park superintendent. "I was there, Charlie," runs the aphis-eaten old joke and Mr. Morley most definitely "was there" when planting for America's fair of the year was being accomplished from January to June, six months of stationing hundreds of thousands of plants in their proper quarters for the delight of millions.

"We're going to make money because of the beauty of the location," Globe theatre managers told Mr. Mor-

ley and the unanimous opinion of sophisticated Expositionites from everywhere elects the C.P.I.E. setting as the most beautiful of all, bar none.

Mr. Morley enumerated the tons of peat and fertilizers, the hundreds of pounds of seed to an audience that understands something about such problems. He spoke very warmly of the prominent townspeople who made his problems theirs and named a complete list of the landscape men and nurserymen whose work or products are on the grounds.

Miss Kate Sessions in her regular feature displayed frangipani blooms and the interesting acacia pendula. It was a great evening as Miss Sessions and Mr. Morley are synonymous with Balboa Park.

ADA PERRY.

## MORE CACTI

Additional donations to the Exposition cactus garden not heretofore mentioned. Six of the largest and finest specimens in the garden from the U. S. Acclimatization Station, Torrey Pines.

Cereus hexagonus.

Cereus peruvianus var. monstrosus.

Cereus maerogonus.

Cereus alacriportanus.

Cereus large partanus.

Myrtillocactus geometrizans.

From Miss Martha Frost and her brother Albert A. Frost, Pacific Beach, fifty opuntia plants for bordering main entrance path.

From the Balboa Park Nursery two extra large Opuntia, one weighing nearly a ton after being crated.

C. I. JERABEK.

## REPORT OF AUGUST MEETING

The Julius Wangenheimhs have their night blooming jasmine (cestrum parqui) planted next their veranda while the W. J. Ogdens enjoy the same plant next their garden entrance.

These two fine San Diego gardens were visited by the Floral association in August and observing their use of the occasion. The Wangenheim garden at 148 W. Juniper is famous for its perfect dimensions, its Chilean jasmine and bignonia cherere vines, and metrosideros and podocarpus trees. Fall michaelmas daisies, asters and phlox were glowing in the beds around the tiny pool for the birds. Blue tropical lilies as big as dinner plates in the garden pool perfumed the whole upper area. More fall color was present in the pomegranate shrubs and beds of amber dahlias and the handsome Mexican sunflower.

The approach to the Ogdens garden at 1007 Cypress is very beautiful with abelia and escallonia dust hedge. Fine eucalyptus with ivy robes tower above the hedge and inside the lawn is lovely with fine junipers. Cup of gold and Crimson Lake bougainvillea ornament the house and garden entrance while tuberous and triphylla begonias color the low beds. Inside the garden is the lovely pool with its restrained planting and the long fall flower border leading to the pergola, amazing with its hundreds of hanging blooms of the red passiflora pricipes. In a rear garden beyond are roses and fruit trees in quantity and a succulent and shrub planting on the bank that easily rivals the front for interest. A. P.

## K. O. SESSIONS HONORED BY EXPOSITION

September 24th has been set aside by the California Pacific International Exposition at San Diego as "K. O. Sessions Day". It is singularly fitting that the San Diego Exposition by this action prove the exception to the axiom "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country". While the term prophet is naturally used in a figurative sense, it is nevertheless true that Miss Sessions' constant and tireless activities in past years of the need for and possibilities of species of ornamental plants beyond number has been proved out even though her hopes and plans have largely been brought to fruition by her own efforts. A great deal of the ornamental horticulture in and about San Diego that is unique and outstanding can be traced to her influence.

Beyond this she is one of America's foremost horticulturists. Even across the borders of her homeland she is known and respected wherever the clan gathers of those who know and love to work with plant life for these people like K. O. Sessions are constantly reaching out for more plants, new plants, more knowledge about plants. They are not many in number, and each one is a real personality, we have found, these people who are endowed by nature with the desire and the ability to make our lives more pleasant through the medium of plant life. It perhaps could be said that they walk with God. For indeed if God is life, do not they share, if only to an infinitesimal degree the knowledge of life above and beyond the ken of most of us. And so it is singularly fitting that the San Diego Exposition with perhaps the finest natural setting of any International Exposition that has ever been held, in beautiful Balboa Park, the mecca of plant lovers, should set aside a day in honor of this woman whose influence has contributed so much to that natural beauty. For even industry as represented by the great and bewildering displays of mechanical achievement must turn to the soil, to nature for its raw materials.

# The Fall Flower Show . . .

By ADA PERRY

Regardless of where the flower shows are held, they become more interesting with each exhibition. It would be an admirable statistical triumph to quote here just when the first cactus exhibit made its appearance at the floral association sponsored shows. But that particular statistic is not available. It can be said though that the recent August or fall show in the Bridges building saw the first lavish display of gourds within the memory of the correspondent.

Chief among the gourd masterpieces was Mrs. John Kusche's carreta from La Mesa which was a veritable apple cart, so to speak, of gourds. The variety was amazing and so was the versatility of the gourds which presented themselves to the public as cactus gardens, ollas, bird's eggs and engraved corner stones. The brilliant exhibit was wreathed in bougainvillea and hung with pepper and garlic strings, as a bit of peon flavoring. The Carlsbad Garden club further enriched the gourd exhibits and showed Torrey pine baskets as well. Joseph Sefton pleased his many San Diego friends with an exhibit of his gourds.

To get off the subject of gourds which, after all, are not flowers, it can be said that the largest dahlias were seen in the show and the most versatile display of zinnias. San Diego

## . . . Gourd Displays New Feature

gardeners caught up the new strains of these and planted them almost before the packet paste was dry, apparently. Pincushion and cactus or Fantasy specimens were well represented. There was also a proud maternal zinnia with four healthy quadruplets. The success of the Dionne "quints" forbids calling the flower a freak.

The tiniest miniatures on record were seen at the show. The beautiful bouquet classes were varied delightfully with succulent arrangements, flower and fruit, and fruit arrangements.

Frank Ellis' rose nursery at Cardiff sent fine summer blooms which were set up by George Beech as Mr. Ellis was ill. Press pictures were taken of the display but not printed because of the lack of space.

The Exposition and Balboa park sent exhibits as well as Miss Kate Sessions, Rosecourt, Williams and Macpherson and others whose layouts are sought after by show patrons as sources of beauty and plant information. W. H. Hutchings, Otto and Son, E. H. Roepke, and Mission florists sent lovely displays. The little bridge tables in charge of the Junior League were replete with pretty suggestions.

This article admittedly does not cover the entire show, but what article does?

## EUCALYPTUS

When is eucalyptus fairest?

When the round new leaves of blue gum

Grace its feet and its head is piled

With rosy flowers, when spring is new come?

Or fragrant, pungent in summer heat,

Its foliage rich maturely draped,—

In grand array, though hanging free

One red-stained branchlet has es-  
caped?

Or on a windy, moonlit night

Its sturdy branches, tossing wide

Their darkling, glossy, gleaming leaves  
Like myriad fireflies, swoop and glide?

Or as a setting for a view,

A canyon framed by one or two,  
A mountain peak beneath its boughs,  
Outlined on sky of bluest blue?

Why fairest that is always fair,

Fairer than anyone can say,

On any day all through the year,

Or any hour of any day?

—FLORENCE ARSENIAULT.

# The Garden Contest . . .

## . . . Report of the Garden Contest Committee

To stand around, pencil in hand, judging the gardens over which other people have toiled on tired knees seems, at best, to be an assumption of an unjustified superiority but if any one is going to get ribbons it has to be done. For the spring and fall judging this year in San Diego the points for scoring covered practically all the aspects of a garden except charm, which after all does not lend itself to a mathematical formula. For the street front being an asset to the neighborhood a top score of 10 points was given; for plan of garden 20; for proper selection of plants 15; for quantity and quality of bloom and use of color 15; for physical condition of plants, trees, shrubs and lawns 20; for neatness 10; for full development of the property and its co-ordination 10. These score points try to strike an equal balance between garden design and horticultural excellence.

When the three judges met for the first time on a damp April morning it was agreed without argument that certain factors should be taken into consideration in scoring the various points. For instance it seemed obvious that in judging really small gardens not quite the same standard of condition should be exacted as in larger ones where professional gardeners were employed. A truly small garden should be judged as an amateur diversion lacking entirely in the professional touch.

But when the scores for both spring and fall were averaged the garden which scored the highest points on condition was in the small class and was the winner of the first prize in that class. The owner, Mrs. Grace Trevey, had taken entire care of it and it presented at both seasons that clean, luminous, moist green of foliage and lawn for which many strive so vainly. In addition, the garden presented an interesting solution of a very difficult problem—the small lot that tips sharply down a canyon to one corner. Mrs. Trevey has met this by a series of small sodded terraces where standard tree roses and small beds of annuals give color to the pre-

vailing fresh green. At the bottom of the terraces is a Jacaranda which when in bloom must be a striking focal point.

At first it seemed reasonable to suppose that these small gardens could not compete in the matter of garden features, such as pools, with the larger places. But the Hughes (Mrs. A. R.) garden, which took second prize in this class, also had the most perfect informal rock pool, small as it was. In this garden a straight-forward plan, serene in its simplicity, has been developed into an unusually livable place of outstanding charm.

The third garden in this class, that of Mrs. Hartwick Barnes got very high marks, both spring and fall for the abundance of color and well selected flowers as well as the extensive use of native shrubs to carry the planting down the canyon side.

In the medium-small gardens, Mrs. S. A. Durr took the first prize chiefly on the spring showing when the really exquisite color and quantity of bloom combined with the sound and delightful plan made it a memorable picture. In the fall the color and the condition were not as good, but the well co-ordinated plan, the shrub planting and a fine show of tuberous begonias gave it enough points to win.

A very close second in this class was the garden of Misses Etta and Lydia Schwieder. This garden, made up of two walled gardens, an outer one with an inner patio, is distinguished by an unusual and charming wall treatment and the finest small collection of succulents. Also notable in this garden were the fuchsias along the rear entrance walk, a characteristic feature in a garden that has no careless spots.

Mr. M. C. Bristol whose garden took third place has a place scoring high on physical condition with a fine rock pool for its chief feature. In the spring it had a pleasing lot of color but like many others had to take the fall judgment without this additional credit. It is among the newer gardens and may take even a higher place in the years to come.

In the medium-large class of gardens, that of the Hildreth Peckhams at La Playa was entered for the first time and took the first award. It is an outstanding formal garden, with the architectural quality that all good formal design must have. In the spring, added to its more permanent charms beautiful planting of Iceland poppies, Ageratum and a dark Heliotrope harmonized and contrasted with the blue tile in the wall fountain and formal pool.

The Julius Wangenhein garden which took second prize in this class is one of the well known gardens of San Diego, beautifully designed and perhaps more genuinely used than any other garden in the city. It has beyond question the most beautiful and interesting garden features, garden statuary, fountains, and an unusually well proportioned and appointed garden shelter. In the spring, the garden was not at its best. It was one of the few to score higher on its fall showing although on account of the very successful use of tile it is a garden that never looks colorless.

Third in this class went to Mrs. Beale Wetzell. This garden which owes less to its plan than to the skill of its owner in planting and a feeling of informality. The most delightful combination of color, both spring and fall, gave this garden a high score, particularly in that indefinable quality charm it is an outstanding garden.

In the large gardens, that of the W. J. Ogdens with its splendid sweep of drive, its lawns, its superb rose garden was an easy first. The condition of this garden was particularly fine for its class. In addition to the more usual features of pool, arbor, etc. the Ogden garden boasts an aviary very well designed for appearance as well as use. Mr. and Mrs. Ogden have won three first and this year will receive the coveted bronze plaque by which the Association attests this fine achievement.

Second prize in this large class went to Fred Scripp's places at Braemar. This is a garden made up of many gardens, full of imagination and varied in concept and execution. It is distinguished by a large and fine lath house that is really a garden in itself, splendid trees, vivid splashes of annuals.

George Sturges won third. Here we have almost a wild garden, a nat-

realistic handling of the hillside with many trees and shrubs, few flowers and almost no color except for a fine sweep of begonias on the curved entrance drive.

Among the gardens which did not place there were several memorable features. In the spring the rock planting beside the steps leading from the James Forward lawn to the drive was remarkably beautiful. At both seasons the lawns of the adjoining Heller places were excellent, the best of any gardens entered. Another spring rock gardens worthy of mention was at the Lawrence Klaubers. Mrs. Michael Kew has an unusually fine wall and wall treatment and one of the most dignified front facades in the city. Among the small gardens, Mr. R. L. Kemp has magnificent specimens of rex begonias in perfect condition and housed in an excellent small lath house.

The Apartment Houses were led by Park Manor where the formal planting and clipped hedges have the substantial effect most suitable to large buildings while the development of the garden area to give greatest use was made of the small area available. The Barcelona took second place. It rated high in the spring for good color combinations in the front planting. In the rear is a delightful sweep of lawn for putting greens running naturally into well planted banks which surround this sunken area.

The Balboa Vista placed third. Its trim lawns, formal paths, planting all in keeping with the Spanish character of the building.

This article closes with mention of the Church of the New Jerusalem. Exceptional and meritorious mention of one of the finest rock gardens we have seen. The rocks are handled as they should be and the plants so chosen to give a marvelous display the year round of lovely color harmonies. The entire garden is so planned to not alone give pleasure to the church members but as a beautiful civic improvement.

The Garden Contest Committee is very gratified at the interest of the large number of contestants this year and takes this occasion to thank these competitors.

E. W. C.

# Tree Planting for Pacific Beach ..

By K. O. SESSIONS

## ... Planting Made of *Metrosideros tomentosa*

A plan has been proposed to establish a row of the famous New Zealand Christmas tree along the fine ocean frontage park in Pacific Beach north of the new fishing pier. This beautiful plant is known by the botanical name of *Metrosideros tomentosa* and bears bright red flowers at Christmas in New Zealand which is summer time for that locality. Here the tree will flower in June and July.

There is a 50-year-old specimen flowering at the MiraMar Hotel in Santa Monica which is fully 50 feet wide and 35 feet high with 13 large trunks measuring 8 to 12 inches in diameter. Mr. Hugh Evans has two large flowering plants in his home garden at Santa Monica 10 to 12 years old, and he highly recommends this variety as the finest coast tree. He says it is a very clean evergreen, standing the heavy ocean winds and salty air. Its roots often reach to below the high tide mark in New Zealand. It is the same tree that has been observed in the garden of Mr. Julius Wangenheim at First and Juniper streets.

A row of these trees, spreading like our native oak, planted 100 to 200 feet apart will in the not very distant future become a more conspicuous feature and be more generally admired than the Cocos palm now planted along the fine Pacific boulevard.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Holton of Chula Vista have three small plants flourishing. They saw them on their yachting trip around the world some three years ago and so admired the tree for its fine appearance and brilliant flowers, that Mrs. Horton wrote me from New Zealand to secure some plants at once.

There is one small flowering specimen on Coronado and a smaller plant in Dr. Sherrill's garden in La Jolla and one in my home garden.

Two other plants well adapted for a coast location are the *Lagunaria Pattersoni* and *Myoporum acutum*. The *Lagunaria* is a native of an island in the Pacific ocean and is able to grow erect without being staked. The largest specimen is in the garden of the late Miss Ellen Scripps at La Jolla. It is fully 20 feet tall. The *myoporum* makes a large and bushy shrub-like plant 8 to 10 feet in diameter and 10 feet high. Its shape and appearance yield to judicious pruning and staking. The flowers are inconspicuous and its seed is abundant. Seedling plants make the best growth and are the hardiest. The *metrosideros* is superior to both of the later mentioned varieties.

The garden of the new State Highway office on Harbor Drive had one specimen of *metrosideros tomentosa* planted August 1st on the lawn fronting the bay.

## The Garden Note Book

Do you remember Alfred Putz's "The Garden Notebook" filled with pertinent pointers to guide the faltering steps of amateur garden makers? Now he's done "Another Garden Notebook" (Doubleday, Doran; \$1.50).

Without fuss or feathers Alfred Putz presents information in a nutshell. Look at page 137 "Planting Rhododendrons in Fall". Three pages of concise text and an illustration which shows the whole planting technique. It's all there, for quick assimilation—undiluted, clear and neat.

Although written about eastern gardening conditions, there isn't a thing

in the book which we cannot use.

Moreover, Alfred Putz has given space to some of the new plant material without which no modern book is complete. There is a chapter on species tulips and one on tigridias, as well as some interesting pages on testing seeds for germination.

Few books have ever contained so many of the gardening essentials in such condensed form. If you must limit yourself to only one shelf of gardening books, be sure that among the volumes it holds is "Another Garden Notebook" by Alfred Putz.

LESTER ROWNTREE,

# Stray Thoughts...

By PETER D. BARNHART

## ...Easily Grown Hippeastrums Neglected By Garden Enthusiasts

Last month I wrote about trees and plants little known to Gardeners of this Southland. I shall continue the story in the hope that all these beautiful things may become the common heritage of all plant enthusiasts.

The first subject for consideration are two of the Crinums. Bailey makes mention of thirty-three species. It is *Crinum Powellii alba* that appeals most to me, and, for the reason the flowers are of the purest white, and so refined in texture that they should be grown in quantity for florists when called on for large floral pieces. Eight to ten flowers borne on a peduncle two feet long. It is an evergreen species, the bulbs four inches diameter with a neck a foot or more long. To do its best it *must* have an abundance of water the entire year. Gardeners of this Southland know what that means. No rain for six or eight months, water from the hose must be used during those months. A pink colored species of this plant is also desirable. Vallotas in five species are seldom seen in our gardens, and that too, to our discredit. Most amazing of all is the fact that the many varieties of Hippeastrums, originating with Howard & Smith are seldom seen in our gardens. Those flowers have been brought to a degree of perfection, in size, and variety of colors, that is astounding to those of us who knew the original stock . . . Easily grown, there is no excuse for their neglect by plant en-

thusiasts. Oh! how slow we are in the use of plant life that may be collected from all sections of the earth, which would add interest to our gardens. *Tagetes lucida*—Sweet-Scented Marigold—is an evergreen dwarf shrub. The flowers are small, borne in a dense cluster, the clusters covering the top of the plant. A worthwhile plant for any garden. Right now Snail Vine—*Phaseolus Caracalla* is in bloom. It is an evergreen, tuberous rooted vine. The flowers are curled, in appearance like unto a Snail, hence the common name. The colors are first white and purple, the white turning yellow with age. Gorgeous in color, and delightfully fragrant it should be one among the vines we grow. A native of India, it is another example of the wide range of plant life found in this Southland.

A shy seeder it never will be abundant among Nurserymen, unless they grow it from cuttings. Let us indulge in the hope that this thought will find lodgment in the mind of the Clan. Recently while roaming through a garden I discovered a double flowering Day Lily; known as *Hemerocallis*. Deep orange color, streaked with red, it was a thing of beauty, and wholly new to me.

As I said in the beginning of this story, "we yet have a long ways to travel, before we reach the end of the trail in Ornamental Horticulture in Southern California."

## A Key to the Eucalypts

To some of us, the smell of burning eucalyptus wood is as inherent a part of California life as the scene of orange blossoms or the song of the meadowlark.

The genus *Eucalyptus* is literally vast. The name brings to the minds of most of us merely the Tasmanian Blue Gum, *E. globulus*, which was grouped around the old California homesteads before our generation appeared on earth,—or perhaps we may also remember the brilliantly colored *E. ficiifolia* which is now being used so effectively as a street planting tree. So

it is time we poked our noses into "A Key to the Eucalypts," by W. F. Blakely (10/6 by post from Australia) to find there all the five hundred species and one hundred and thirty-eight varieties.

Mr. Blakely, who is Botanist and Eucalyptologist at the Sydney Botanic Gardens, gives, with the description of each species, its common name, distribution, size and habit, soil requirements, uses and flowering period, with additional notes on its occurrence and range.

LESTER ROWNTREE,  
Carmel, California.

## New Valuable Book

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## NATIONAL ROSE SHOW

A Rose Show of national proportions is to be staged at the California Pacific International Exposition on Saturday and Sunday, October 12 and 13. The show is to be staged by the San Diego Rose Society with the Ford Motor Company and the Exposition management generously co-operating, and will be held in the large patio of the Ford building which provides an ideal setting.

The Exposition management is providing the prize ribbons which will bear the Exposition seal. The 22nd Agricultural District of California is sponsoring the show and offering substantial cash prizes in all classes. One of the outstanding trophies to be presented is the R. A. Nicholson Bowl offered through the American Rose Society for the best twenty-five blooms, not less than six or more than twelve varieties grown and staged by an amateur. This bowl will soon arrive in San Diego and will be on display, notice of which will appear in the daily papers.

So far exhibits have been assured from all parts of California, the Pacific Northwest, from East Texas, and from two points in Pennsylvania. These will come by over night air express arriving in San Diego the morning of the Show.

While the country at large will be represented with roses from practically every rose growing center it will be necessary for San Diego gardeners to furnish the bulk of roses for the Show. The usual classes will be provided with collections of six, twelve and twenty-five varieties; classes of six, three and one blooms; in the various colors of white, red, pink, yellow, pink shaded, yellow shaded, and flame; and for the usual arrangements in jars, bowls and baskets. There will also be an opportunity to arrange dining tables, and in all probability luncheon tables.

Premium lists will be available at all seed service stores about October first.

Automobiles bearing exhibits will be admitted at the Eleventh Street gate of the Exposition grounds up until 9:00 Saturday morning, if arrangements are made previously with the Secretary, Mrs. Elsie Case, 3051 Broadway, Franklin 1502.

# Herbs and the Earth...

By HENRY BESTON

### ...A New Book About Herbs

A new book about the ancient herbs appears to be the particular obsession of every one who falls sufficiently under their strange bewitchment to attempt growing them, but in this little volume we find something really different, original, and as utterly charming. The author lives among the green hills of Maine "in a pleasant and Virgilian place, much loved of birds." How characteristically those few sweetly descriptive words at once bring the picture setting into mind! Even so must we resort to further ample quotation to picture in review a book, the whole essence of which is not mere gardening so much as a living and restorative philosophy. "It is this earth which is the true inheritance of man, his link with his human past, the source of his religion, ritual and song, the kingdom without whose splendor he lapses from his mysterious estate of a man to a baser world which is without the other virtue and the other integrity of the animal . . . The age in which we live is curious and bewildered; it is without a truly human past and may be without a human future, and so abruptly it came that one might imagine some cosmic spirit or wayward daimon to have reached down of a moment and plucked man by the hair. It has lost the earth, but found (since the comfortable century of philosophers in dressing gowns) a something which it calls 'nature,' and of which it speaks with enthusiasm and emblems in photographs. It has lost as well the historic sense, the poignant and poetic recognition of the long continuity of man, that sense within our hearts which is moved by a chance print in an old book of a countryman ploughing with oxen beside ruins overgrown with Fennel while to one side women clap cymbals together to calm the swarming bees . . . The hideous delight of the early twentieth century in masses and numbers was a touch of the insect mind, a thing tent caterpillars would have perfectly understood."

Let us tempt you into buying the

book by transcribing a paragraph more: "A garden of herbs need be no larger than the shadow of a bush, yet within it, as in no other, a mood of the earth approaches and encounters the spirit of man. Beneath these ancestral leaves, these immemorial attendants of man, these servants of his magic and healers of his pain, the earth underfoot is the earth of poetry and the human spirit; in this small sun and shade flourishes a whole tradition of mankind. This flower is Athens; this tendril, Rome! a monk of the Dark Ages tended this green against the wall: with this scented leaf were kings welcomed in the morning of the world. Lovely and timeless, rooted at once in gardens and in life, the great herbs come to the gardener's hand our most noble heritage of green." The herbs so honored as "great" are ten in number—Basil, Marjoram, Balm, Bergamot Mint, Sage, Hyssop, Rue, Spike Vervain, Lovage, Lavender. How beautiful is the music of these dear old English names as we read them, but how many of the plants themselves do you know and grow? Your reviewer grows most of them, and would fain include at least two more sweet subjects. Costmary and Yerba Buena, to make an honored dozen. Mr. Beston does not believe in attempting too large a selection in one small garden, but apparently inclines toward an abundance of the sweeter smelling ones. "That inauspicious suggestion lurking in modern perfumes of the animal mingled with the floral, as if someone had led a musk-ox through a bed of Nicotianas, is with herbs cleansed from the nose." Again his appreciation of the classic beauty of the leaves in and for themselves becomes another very special point and charm to a delightful book which we are very happy not to have missed.

S. S. B.

Note the date which appears after the mailing address on the cover of your California "Garden" and when your subscription expires, please renew promptly.

# No Aliases Desired . . .

By MURRAY SKINNER

## ... Confusion Reigns When Plants Incorrectly Named

I am not queer, (at least I don't think I am) but I am face to face with a serious problem—at least it seems serious to me.

You see, I don't like aliases on my plants. I mean, I like to have a plant introduced to me by its right name, or by as near to its right name as the proper authorities can discover. Thus, as I have stated, I dislike very much meeting a Dumpling Cactus and not having the slightest idea which one of the Dumplings—if there is such a family—it is, nor do I enjoy being presented to a Torch Cactus and trying to carry forward a courteous conversation, while I subtly drop hints in an effort to elicit the real name of my new acquaintance. Nor is it agreeable to have a friend from Texas ask about Mexican Fire Balls; how am I to know whether the plant in question is what is colloquially known as Summer Cypress (*Kochia trichophylla*) or if he is referring to *Ferocactus acanthodes*?

And then, Hen and chickens! Dear me, how many types of hens and chickens there are; Dudleyas, Echeverias, Sempervivums, and even several cacti which have colonies of young huddling about their sides. However am I to know, when one talks about Hen and chickens, or at my first sight of one, which of the family, or even which family, is confronting me? No. I do not like aliases in plants anymore than I do in people.

Mainly do I dislike such aliases when someone says to me, "Have you the "Mother-in-law's tongue" cactus? I ask you, how dare I be so heartless as to instantly recognize that the plant in question is one of my rough surfaced Casterias? Of course, when asked about a "Snake Head" Euphorbia I can see the point and indicate my

Caput Medusae, but "Inch Worm Plant", why my Kleinia pendula should shudder and grow pale as its near relative, the "Sausage Plant," Kleima articulata, at such opprobrious epithets!

There is, though, another side to this question. Pet names and nicknames have always been more or less natural with humans, and it is instinctive to say, "the Rat-tail" cactus, rather than to twist one's tongue about *Aporocactus flagelliformis*, or to speak of the "Star Fish Flower" when mentioning a *Stapelia*, and, when one searches amongst the rocks placed over the surface of the Mesembrianthemums bed for the rascally little gnomes hiding their funny gray, or silvery, or brown faces, it seems impossible to keep from gleefully exclaiming, "See my Living Rocks."

Oh dear! Today I search my books and question my learned friends, seeking the dignified cognomens which tell me to which families these plants belong, and whether this particular plant has been thought worthy of a particular name. Tomorrow I throw my hands up, and just love them. Phooey with dignity! 'Tis a problem.

The worst feature about the matter is encountered by our commercial dealers. If they don't know the trick names they lose caste with their clients, while finding that they must learn these names in addition to the brain warping botanical nomenclature they, very naturally, become exceedingly irritated. Has there ever been a solution to the problem?

Re cactus: How's your "Totem Pole"? Huh!

### NOTICE

On file and for sale, complete copies of all "California Gardens" magazines.

### PRUNING

One of the worst of our garden pests is the person who comes along, with a pair of pruning shears which he is itching to use, and nips off the tips of those shrubs whose glory is their graceful arching branches. This is not pruning. (Pruning takes brains as well as right and left hands). This is simply a method for achieving side shoots, a heavy, solid exterior, central bunchiness and complete destruction of all the beautiful natural horizontal lines. It takes more than one or two tellings to convince would-be garden helpers that most pruning—unless it is hedge clipping—should be done from the inside, not the outside; from the bottom, not the top.

For few of the recent horticultural books has there been so much need as for R. Sanford Martin's "How to Prune Western Shrubs" (News-Post Press, Monrovia, Cal. \$1.00). It is a practical guide for our own part of the country by a man whose knowledge of pruning comes from local experience. It is not a pretentious book, but it contains what we need to know and we have no longer an excuse for sidestepping an intelligent pruning of our shrubs.

The shrubs considered are those most usual in western gardens and nurseries. Their arrangement is alphabetical and the many clear, carefully annotated illustrations from drawings by the author make the proper pruning methods for the various species quite unmistakeable.

If we can have any quarrel with Mr. Martin's work it is that some less known shrubs are omitted—shrubs which will in a few years (we hope) be part of every nurseryman's stock and which will therefore be begging us for a snipping.

Thank you, Mr. Martin. Now please do us a book on pruning western vines.

LESTER ROUNTREE,  
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## OLD ROSES

By Mrs. Frederick Love Keays  
(The Macmillan Co., N. Y., 1935;  
\$3.00)

The fascination of garden plants from a bygone day is of a piece with our never-waning admiration for old furniture, old textiles, old glass. Still more freshly and understandingly than these do they breathe up to us the atmosphere of a more measured, a serene time. We find ourselves unable altogether to deny them, even though we will, and a serious interest in them, both in England and America, is slowly but steadily spreading. Mrs. Keays' story of her own enthusiastic search for old-time roses, her adventures in the back country of Maryland and elsewhere in finding them, and her efforts to learn and establish identities now long forgotten, form a real contribution to American floriculture. Quite rightly she says that "old roses . . . are not competing with modern roses any more than are iris . . . Pleasure in them is different. From them we gain new and different perceptions of rose nature." The year 1880 is more or less arbitrarily selected as the approximate date beyond which a rose must have come to us to deserve the reverential title "old." The development of the rose up to this time is traced in successive chapters, with strongest stress perhaps on the varieties characteristic of Colonial America and the extraordinary position in the history of this flower which is necessarily yielded to the Empress Josephine and the scholarly group of students and horticulturists whom she so effectively patronized. Let us quote. "Through this marshaling of great and seriously minded men, to the service of the rose, Josephine, with her little army, did a much greater good to the world where roses grow than Napoleon did with his armies of fighting men." For some of the roses found only tentative names are as yet possible. Many varieties, inclusive of the incomparable Marechal Neil, are recommended as giving best results when grown on their own roots. The concluding chapter, Uses for Old Roses, is the most haunting and beautiful we think, in the book. Their use as cut flowers is recommended very aptly in connection with the period-furnishings appropriate to them. There are many illustrations,

## Question Box...

By R. R. McLEAN

QUESTION: We had our lawn planted with arenaria turf about a year ago. Last spring we put on peat moss which seemed to accelerate its growth, but now there are dead spots in much of it. Is there a remedy?

A. H.

ANSWER: Some of the peat mosses contain more or less alkali. It is possible that your arenaria has been injured in this manner. The remedy, in such case, would be to get rid of the alkali. As a suggestion, you might try using gypsum on the lawn, afterwards irrigating freely. Gypsum will change the form of alkali to one that can be leached out of the soil.

QUESTION: I have some carnations I want to slip. Please advise me if this is the proper time to do it, and how to root the cuttings.

M. D. E.

ANSWER: Within certain limits, cuttings taken as late as March and April will make stronger plants than those rooted early in the winter. February, March and April, or under some circumstances, the month of May also, are the best months to root the slips. The usual practice is to root them in sand, preferable in a box that can be covered with glass to regulate moisture and heat. The usual recommendation, also, is to take your cuttings from the new small shoots which have grown out three or four inches.

In part copied from ancient books, in part original with the author, and a reprinting in polychrome of a quaint and lovely old chaplet on the title page. The publishers missed an opportunity, however, in failing to give this book a more picturesque binding in some approximate synchrony with its contents. In any event Mrs. Keays once more emphasizes for us that there is an enduring and serene beauty inherent to dignity and sweet sincerity wherein flamboyance can never participate.

S. S. B.

. . . *Arenaria Turf Dies Out in Spots*

QUESTION: Kindly inform me the quickest and most effective way of getting rid of red ants and their nests. They are ruining my garden.

MRS. L. W. L.

ANSWER: Either sodium cyanide or carbon bisulphide will be effective in the treatment of ant nests. To use the sodium cyanide dissolve one cyanide egg (1 ounce) in a gallon of water and pour some of this into the top of the nest, first making two or three holes a few inches deep and after covering up. A later light irrigation to carry the material further down into the nest will add to its effectiveness. Carbon bisulphide is also injected into the top of the nest, using three-quarters to an ounce per square foot and covering up the holes into which it is injected. Care must be observed, of course, in using these materials as the fumes of either, if inhaled too long, might cause trouble. In addition to this, carbon bisulphide is explosive and inflammable and must not come in contact with fire. If tree or plant roots are in the soil area treated with these materials, they may be injured.

QUESTION: I have a lovely rosebush which is about four years old. This year as usual it was loaded with buds and in a perfectly healthy condition. I noticed one day about three weeks ago that the ants had built a nest in the ground and were throwing up the dirt close to the trunk. I poured a cup full of coal oil in the nest and then filled the basin which I have made around the bush with water. This water carried the oil all over the roots and now the leaves have all turned yellow and dropped off with the buds doing likewise. Is there anything that I can do now to restore this bush to its former healthy condition?

W. J. D.

ANSWER: The only thing that occurs to the writer is to irrigate the bush in order to wash as much of the oil away as possible, securing artificial drainage, if necessary. If the roots are not dead, the bush may entirely recover in time.

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